

# THE PUGET SOUND ROCKET

## Newsletter of the Puget Sound Olds Club

An Official Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America

JANUARY 2021



### **Happy New Year to all our chapter members and friends!**

Here we are turning the page to another year of our lives. Thank goodness 2020 is behind us. We who have survived 2020 have a lot to be thankful for.

As the season of car shows and swap meets gets closer, our hope is that we will once again be able to show our rides and meet with our friends. Hopefully, those in charge will understand that we can be responsible when we are out in the open air with our cars.

We probably will not be able to count on the library system to allow our monthly chapter meetings to be held in their facilities. For that reason, we will need to come up with other ideas to meet as a chapter. Perhaps we could consider holding chapter meetings at private residences. As the weather warms holding a meeting at a local park might be also an option. Suggestions from the membership is definitely welcome.

One thing is for certain, 2021 is going to be a better year!

**Between the Bumpers**  
Page 3

**MEETING MINUTES**  
None in December

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
Page 10

**Puget Sound Olds Club  
2021  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Secretary**  
This position is open

**Treasurer**  
Kathi Straw  
[ekstraw@comcast.net](mailto:ekstraw@comcast.net)  
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**Membership Chairpersons**  
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**OCA BOARD MEMBERS**  
PNW Zone Directors

Ed Konsmo  
[ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com)

**Second position open**

**PSOC Website:**  
[www.pugetsoundoldsclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundoldsclub.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings Chapter Members,

A Very Happy New Year to all!

As noted in the front-page commentary, we are very happy that 2020 is behind us. The year ahead can only be better in every way; less restrictions, vaccines available and car shows, and swap meets being held once again. Will crossing our fingers help??

We just received the schedule of Good Guys events for 2021 and all their shows are scheduled. They are obviously taking the positive approach. The first big swap meet in our area, the Early Bird Swap meet in Puyallup in February has been postponed to 2022. They were not willing to risk the restrictions being lifted in time to hold the meet.

We are taking the positive approach and putting our shows for the year on the calendar. The Annual Zone Show is being scheduled for July 10 and the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual BOP Show at the XXX Root Beer Drive-In will again be on the last Sunday in August, the 29<sup>th</sup>.

We most likely will not be able to count on the library system to allow chapter meetings in 2021 and will need to come up with another solution. Several chapters across the country are using Zoom for meetings. Perhaps we should consider this option for our chapter meetings. Let us know what you think.

*Stay safe.*

*Ed Konsmo  
Editor*

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE NEWSLETTER:**

Information to be considered for submittal into the newsletter needs to be received by the 25th of the month. Please send your information as an e-mail or attach it to your e-mail in word document form. If you have problems or questions, call Ed or Pam at 253-845-2288. Please e-mail your submittal to: [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com).



## 300,000 Miles and still going....



**This 1967 Cutlass Supreme convertible is still driven daily by its original owner.**

Imagine the level of commitment required to retain the only new car you have ever purchased as your primary transportation for the rest of your life. Connie Milburn of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada, is doing just that with her 1967 Cutlass Supreme convertible, which she named “Black Beauty.”

She tells *Hemmings*, “I’m just an average product from the small provincial farming community of Edson, Alberta. While growing up on the farm with my parents [Ruby and Orlando Thompson] and my brother [Orley], I learned how to do many things at a young age. Dad taught us how to drive a tractor as soon as our feet could reach the pedals. He reasoned that since we did not have a telephone, if anything happened to him or Mom, my brother or I would have to go get help.

By 1962, Connie was in her early 20s and a flight attendant for Trans Canada airlines, the predecessor to Air Canada. She decided to take a three-month sabbatical in Europe and recalls, “My parents were driving me to the airport when we passed Edmonton Motors and I saw a 1962 F-85 convertible in the showroom. I said, ‘Dad, I just saw a car I love’ and he replied, ‘Are we taking you to the airport or the car dealer?’ I said, ‘The airport,’ but I still could not get that Oldsmobile out of mind. I told myself I’d own one by the time I was 30.”

**Cutlass article continued page 4**

In 1967, Connie was 28 years old, married, living in Vancouver, working for Trans Mountain Pipe Line, and had saved up the money to finally buy her Oldsmobile. Since she had first seen it several years before, the F-85 and the more upscale Cutlass had grown from compact cars to midsize ones. According to Connie, "They just got even better!"

After working out all the details ahead of time, she drove over to Wolfe Chevrolet-Oldsmobile in Vancouver in April of 1967 and recalls waiting in the showroom for a long time, as none of the younger salesmen would approach her. Then, the older, gray-haired Bob Castle came over, and according to Connie, the conversation went like this:

"Hello little lady. Can I help you?"

"Yes, I'd like to order a car."

"Do you see it here?"

"No, but I know exactly what I want."

"You do? Okay little lady, step into my office."

Connie continued, "I would like a Cutlass Supreme convertible, black with black interior and a white top, as well as automatic transmission, console, power brakes, tinted windows, wheel discs, power steering, whitewall tires, radio, clock, power windows, rear-mounted antenna, power seat, and De Luxe seatbelts. Impressed with her decisiveness, after the order was placed Bob said, "If you know of any more Connies, please send them my way."

What influenced the color combination? "It had to be black and white," Connie says. "My Dad had a black pickup with a white top, and I wear a lot of black. I guess I am a black-and-white type of person. Either I know or I do not, there's no gray area in between."

Her Cutlass Supreme, equipped with its standard 320-hp, 330-cu.in. V-8 and optional two-speed Jetaway transmission with variable-vane torque converter, as well as the rest of the specified extra-cost items, arrived on May 24, 1967. Connie drove her Cutlass everywhere, including regularly venturing south to Washington State on the weekends to go skiing. She even traveled with her parents to Mexico in her convertible.

Three years after the purchase, Bob called Connie and asked, "Can I interest you in a new car?" And she replied, "No thank you, I bought this one to drive for my entire life." He tried again three years later, but her feelings had not wavered. Connie has always put the requirements of her Cutlass ahead of her own. "If she needs a fan belt and I need a pair of shoes, the shoes wait," she says. Nevertheless, with mileage and time came typical wear and tear, so the Oldsmobile was treated to repairs and restoration work including repaints and new tops over the years. The first significant refurbishing was several decades ago.

In 1992, Connie moved to Maple Ridge from Vancouver, and in 2004 she sent Black Beauty back to Vancouver so it could be restored at False Creek Automotive. Owner Vern Bethel explained, "My shop oversaw the restoration along with a colleague, Sandy Flett. We handled the disassembly and reassembly and break-in miles, but sublet jobs like the engine and transmission rebuilds, and the bodywork, etc." Both rear quarter panels and wheelhouses were replaced, but the rest of the body and floors were in good shape, according to Vern. He and Connie became friends and remain so to this day. He says, "She's a very busy woman and one of the nicest people you'll ever meet."

Cutlass article continued on next page

Sometime after the restoration, the Cutlass was hit on the driver's side rear quarter panel while parked on the street. Connie had it repaired, and the whole car was refinished once again by a local shop that's no longer in business.

Not surprisingly, proper maintenance has been key in the survival of this Cutlass over its many miles traveled through all types of weather. Connie says, "I use Chevron 94-octane gas in her, and every 3,000 miles I have Black Beauty's oil changed and the chassis lubed."

Gerry Fabbro, owner/technician of Westside Auto Repairs and Maintenance in Maple Ridge, is keenly aware of how seriously she takes the upkeep of her Oldsmobile, and he is impressed by her dedication. "Connie is meticulous," he says. "That car is part of her. It is a convertible, yet she drives it year-round. Each fall we install four snow tires on it, and each spring we remount the four all-season tires."

Though Gerry started working at the shop 18 years ago, Connie's relationship with Westside predates him by 10 years. "She's a very nice person, and she knows everything about her car," he says. "When it develops a problem, Connie will come in with the pages marked in her Oldsmobile Chassis Service Manual to show us what she thinks may be wrong and where we should check."

As you may have already concluded, Connie's affection for her Cutlass Supreme has not diminished over 53 years of ownership. "I love her as much today as the day I got her," she says. Aside from an electronic ignition conversion for the original distributor, the Oldsmobile remains stock, down to its four-wheel drum brakes and AM radio, and at 81-years-old Connie and her Cutlass are still seen regularly on the streets of Maple Ridge.

She says, "I've never had an accident or gotten a speeding ticket in all these years, but I almost hit someone once. He stepped out in front of me just so I would stop. 'I want to buy your car!' he said. And I answered "Well, it's not for sale. I bought her to keep her for my entire life." And it is apparent that Connie will indeed.

Article by [Thomas A. DeMauro](#) *Hemmings*



## MEMBER NOTES & CHAPTER INFO

**This page features notes of interest for and about our members. If you have something interesting to report, please send an e-mail to your editor at [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com), or call 253-576-1128.**

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In a recent conversation with Peter DuPre, the publisher of the “Yellow Book”, he indicated that it looks like most of the car shows that were cancelled in 2020 will be re-scheduled in 2021. Peter said that most of the car shows that were scheduled to take place in Idaho this year where his company is located were able to be held. Social distancing took place and there was not any illness as a result.

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Please note that on page 12 of this newsletter, there is the Chapter Membership Application for the payment of 2021 dues. Please complete and send to Kathi.

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We were informed in December of the passing of Ken “Magoo” McCandless. Ken was a car enthusiast and among the cars in his collection was a Black “50 88 Coupe. Your editor had the privilege of supplying a number of parts to complete the ’50. Ken rarely missed the Thursday morning Burien Breakfast Car Club. Ken is survived by his devoted partner, Connie Harstman, daughter Lisa, son Michael and three grandchildren. A celebration of Ken’s life will be held later in 2021.



***Happy Birthday  
to our Chapter Members  
and Their Spouses  
in January***

<b>9</b>	<b>Shirley Repp</b>	<b>Yakima, WA</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mike Badgley</b>	<b>Everett, WA</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Debbie Yaros</b>	<b>Bothell, WA</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Leonard Barlow</b>	<b>Des Moines, WA</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Ed Konsmo</b>	<b>Puyallup, WA</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Raven Neumann</b>	<b>Monroe, WA</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Derik Martinson</b>	<b>Maple Valley, WA</b>

Happy New Year &  
Here's to new beginnings!  
The best is yet to come!



# Swap Meets and Shows in January

Swap meets and shows are selected based on convenient locations

**WASHINGTON --** In compliance with the actions announced by Washington Governor, Jay Inslee, plus state and local health officials' events with over 250 persons are hereby cancelled to help combat the spread of the Corona virus.

**OREGON --** In compliance with the actions announced by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Multnomah County, and health officials regarding any event with over 250 persons. All have been cancelled.





# Future Oldsmobile National Meets

**2021 August 3-8 Murfreesboro, TN  
Hosted by the OCA at the Embassy Suites**



**\*\*\*\*\* OCA News \*\*\*\*\***

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The OCA Board of Directors approved a four-year contract with Modern Litho, current publisher of the JWO. The new contract was negotiated with a reduced cost per magazine thus saving the OCA a substantial amount of money.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Classified ads are free, unlimited words, within reason. Ads will ONLY run for three consecutive months unless renewal is requested. Please submit your classified advertisement in electronic format by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com).**

## FOR SALE:

**1963 Cutlass Conv.** – Okay condition, runs great. **PRICE REDUCED!** \$12,000 – Call Bruce Lyle 360-799-1717(1)

**1964 Starfire** – Parts car. Fully loaded and complete. Special wheels. \$1800. No offer refused. Must go! Jim Long 360-893-8293 (1)

**1981 Cutlass LS Sedan** – All options available on the car. Garaged its entire life. The car located in Ferndale, WA. Call Paul St. Julien at 360-223-0997 (1)

**1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Brougham** 5.0L V8 4BBL Coupe 2D 49,444 ORIGINAL miles - runs great! Car has always been in the same family. Free Auto Check Vehicle History Report. Interested? Please email [oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com](mailto:oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com) Car located in Indianola, WA (1)

**1992 Cutlass Supreme Conv.** – 62,800 miles  
New top! AC re-charged. LOF just completed  
\$8,995. Call Ed at 253-576-1128 (1)



Chapter member, Jim Long, has a number of cars for sale and is offering bargain prices; Two 1970 Toronados - \$4300 for both; Call 360-893-8293 for more info. Jim also has several Cadillacs and a Chrysler Imperial for sale. (1)

**NEEDS and LEADS:**

**NEED – 1936 – 6 Cylinder engine parts – 213 CI; Frank Geyer 206-949-9087 (1)**

**LEAD – 1955 88 – Fender skirts – E-mail Russ at [m13rj@hotmail.com](mailto:m13rj@hotmail.com) if interested (1)**

**LEAD – Olds shirts for sale. Your choice - \$2.00 each. Call Ed Booth. 253-752-6158 (1)**

**LEAD – 1973 442 – This is a car that was used as a donor car for another restoration. Still has rust free body panels. Interior panels and dash are excellent. \$500. Call Gus at 206-571-3804. (1)**

**NEED - 1970-1972 442, W30, W31, SX conv. or hardtop – OCA and PSOC club member looking for true collector car. The more original and documented the better. Prefer numbers matching. Any condition – from restorable car to showroom condition.**

**Also looking for NOS or used parts for these cars.**

**John Bumb, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 713-3444 or email me at [jbc3735@gmail.com](mailto:jbc3735@gmail.com) (1)**

**OCA and PSOC club member looking for NOS or used parts for 1970-1972 442, W30, W31, SX conv. or hardtop.**

**John Bumb, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 713-3444 or email me at [jbc3735@gmail.com](mailto:jbc3735@gmail.com) (1)**

Call my any time

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**Beginning with the January 2021 issue of the Puget Sound Rocket, we will include a photo of your car in your ad in the classifieds. Simply e-mail a photo to [ekonsmo@msn.com](mailto:ekonsmo@msn.com) and we will include the photo with your ad.**

**If you still have your car for sale in this issue, send us a photo and we will include it with the ad in February.**



**OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**

**PUGET SOUND CHAPTER**

**2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check here if this is an address change

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY      MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE          MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20.00 annual dues payable. Make checks payable to Puget Sound Chapter and mail to:**

**Kathi Straw  
PSOC Membership Chairperson  
P.O. Box 82042  
Kenmore, WA 98028**

**Please assist us in updating our roster by listing your current Oldsmobile(s) below:**

1) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

2) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

3) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

4) YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print this form and mail to Kathi**

## THE PARTING SHOT...



**What is your resolution for the New Year?**